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on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

and

(B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply

5 resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

wherein the tear bar and the strip of media are in a fixed position relative to each other during separation of the strip of media.

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REMARKS

Office Action

The Office Action rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al.

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The Office Action also indicated that claims 1-3, 5-7, 19, and 25-29 are allowed and claims 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Telephonic Interview

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Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Sanchez during the telephone interview on November 19, 2001. During the conversation, Examiner Sanchez indicated that he prefers the claim to be amended to clarify that the tear bar and the strip of media do not move relative to each other during separation of the strip of media. It is understood

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that Examiner Sanchez will evaluate the amendments with his Primary to consider whether to allow the claims.

Amendment

5 By this proposed amendment, claim 20 has been amended to include language that the tear bar and the strip of media do not move relative to each other during separation of the strip of media. Applicants did not use the exact language suggested by Examiner Sanchez in order to avoid using a negative limitation. Applicants used affirmative language but similar in context with Examiner Sanchez's suggestion.

10 Moreover, Applicants submit that claim 20 is patentable over Saito et. al. because Saito et. al. does not disclose a tear bar and a strip of media that are in a fixed position relative to each other during separation of the strip of media. Rather, Saito et. al. discloses a tear bar that moves vertically relative to the strip of media to burst or separate the strip of media.

The amendment of this Amendment has not been made to overcome the rejections.

15 Applicants believe that the original claims are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants made amendments to obtain early allowance of the application. Accordingly, Applicants assert that no claims have been narrowed within the meaning of Festo.

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CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' agent, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

20. (Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- 5 (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
- and
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply
- 10 resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

 wherein the tear bar and the strip of media are [remains] in a fixed position relative to each other during [feeding and] separation of the strip of media.